

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 6532

TITLE: PLANT OPERATOR

GRADE: S-15

DEFINITION:

As an entry level operator, learns the basic principles of wastewater treatment processing and, continuing as a full-performance wastewater treatment operator, assists in the operation of a large wastewater treatment plant; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The Plant Operator Class is both the entry and full-performance level class in the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator series. This class is distinguished from the Lead Plant Operator Class in that incumbents of the Lead Plant Operator class are required to provide leadership and operational training and instruction and to perform duties beyond the journey or more routine level. Also, the Plant Operator class requires certification as a Class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator whereas the Lead Plant Operator class requires a Class III Certification.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Monitors the performance of assigned wastewater treatment systems and equipment or pumping stations and adjustments as needed;

Cleans bar screens, wet wells, tanks, and other equipment and skims grease;

Performs minor maintenance such as inspecting, lubricating, and cleaning power drive pumps and related mechanical equipment;

Adjusts or replaces packing on pumps, gates, and other controls and equipment to move wastewater and sludge through the treatment process;

Collects samples of wastewater and sludge at prescribed stages and time intervals in the treatment cycle and makes basic temperature, residual chlorine, settleable solids, and dissolved oxygen tests;

Reads meters, gauges, and other instruments and records observations in the logs;

Adjusts chemicals' feedrates and other treating equipment to control the physical, chemical, and bacteriological characteristics of wastewater and sludge;

Assists more experienced operators in the operation of sludge dewatering systems and incinerators in a large wastewater treatment plant;

Assists less experienced operators in on-the-job training;

Complies with safety rules and accident prevention measures;

Performs general housekeeping and cleaning duties;

Maintains records and produces reports as assigned and required;

Participates as a team member on special studies and projects related to plant operations.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Ability to comprehend and follow oral and written instructions;

Ability to learn moderately complex tasks and to perform such tasks without close supervision;

Ability to produce and maintain accurate records and reports;

Skill in understanding and performing mechanical processes.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, training, and experience equivalent to the following:
Graduation from high school or GED.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Must, within one year of appointment, have attained the skill level of a journey level plant operator and must attain and maintain a Class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator's certification issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

REVISED: February 25, 2003